

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 1**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2007-013**  
**DATE: March 26, 2007 Time: 5:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER: Three Affiliated Tribes Water Shortage** – Officials for the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation placed approximately 600 residents under a boil order when the Four Bears Water intake lost pressure on March 23 due to spring runoff and thawing of Lake Sakakawea.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. **DAMAGES:** On March 23, the Fort Berthold Rural Water System reported low water pressure and turbidity due to spring run off and thawing of Lake Sakakawea, disrupting water services to 600 customers. The water shortage forced the closure of the Indian Health Service (IHS) kidney dialysis unit and Tribal Administration Offices.  
  
Tribal officials reported the Fort Berthold Rural system lost pressure when water continued to go into the waste system and not the distribution system. Also, while operators were trying to correct the high turbidity levels, none of the water entered the distribution system, depleting reservoirs.  
  
Restoration efforts are continuing as Fort Berthold Rural Water operators pump water back into the system and refill reservoirs. The current boil order is expected to be in effect through Thursday, or until testing indicates the water is safe to drink. Testing began March 24 and will continue daily through March 29.
4. **RESOURCES:**  
  
**LOCAL:** Tribal agencies responding to the emergency include tribal administration offices, Tribal public works, the First District Health, Three Affiliated Tribes Emergency Management and private contractors.  
  
**STATE:** Agencies assisting the Fort Berthold officials include the Governor's Office, the N.D. National Guard, the N.D. Department of Health, the N.D. Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES), Division of Homeland Security and the N.D. State Water Commission.  
  
**FEDERAL:** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VIII and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are monitoring the situation.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No volunteer activities have been reported.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven on March 26 declared a water shortage emergency for the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation where residents have been under a boil order since Friday.

Governor John Hoeven requested the North Dakota Adjutant General, activate the National Guard's 957th Engineer Unit to provide four water tanks, also known as water buffalos, providing residents with an emergency source of treated water. The National Guard sent four water buffalos to New Town; soldiers will remain on site to keep the water buffalos full.

On March 26, the Tribal Chairman Wells reported that the water is back on in most of the area with the exception of some rural areas (approximately 35 homes). Water treatment operators hope to restore water to those rural areas sometime today. Tribal officials are hauling water, using two milk trucks, from New Town and have set up an area for residents to fill their jugs with water. They informed rural residents to boil all water for drinking or cooking. The Casino has bottled water they are providing at no charge and purchased some water from local vendors.

The NDDDES, Division of Homeland Security, is coordinating response to requests for assistance to obtain emergency water supplies.

The N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH) conferred with tribal officials on Friday to offer additional resources to protect affected residents from potential health risks and to ensure arrangements were made for continued treatment of dialysis patients. The department will assist as needed with water testing to determine when the treated water is safe to drink.

The NDDoH indicated approximately 15-20 dialysis patients could be affected due to the closure of the kidney dialysis unit. The NDDoH helped identifying alternate care and transport if needed. The NDDoH has offered the capability to activate their hotline or Ask-A-Nurse in support of Indian Health Service, if necessary. NDDoH is prepared to assist with sample collection and laboratory analysis if requested.

A Bureau of Reclamation representative from Pierre, S.D., was also there Saturday observe the water plant operation.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: As indicated.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: As indicated.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Greg Wilz, State Director